

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5       An encryption key distribution method capable of performing fast roaming by  
differentially distributing encryption keys in advance, according to access authorization  
classes, in a wireless access network and a roaming method using distributed encryption  
10       keys are provided. The encryption key distribution method comprises: receiving a  
command to communicate with an access point not available for communication using an  
encryption key currently selected in the encryption key set; determining access  
authorization of the access point not available for communications; selecting an  
15       encryption key from the encryption key set obtained in advance corresponding to the  
determined access authorization; and using the selected encryption key to encrypt a  
transmission message and communicate with the access point not available for  
communication. The method reduces the delay time, which is caused by encryption key  
distribution while a wireless terminal is traveling, such that roaming and a hand-off are  
20       carried out quickly and safely, and user convenience and safe transmission of data are  
achieved.